

# **Waubonsee Community College Campus Tree Care Plan**

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## **Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to establish policies and procedures that benefit the campus' trees. This plan will serve as a guideline for all planting, pruning, removal and disease treatments on the campus. Specific objectives include:

- Protection and preservation of the large oaks on campus, both in landscape areas and natural areas.
- To diversify the overall species diversity of the campus by expanding the approved list of replacement trees.
- To protect whenever possible high-value trees during construction projects.
- Promote tree health by adhering to the ANSI 300 standard for tree care operations at all time.
- Promote the overall benefits of the tree canopy to the campus community and administration.

## **Responsible Department**

The Waubonsee Community College Building & Grounds Department under the direction of the Director of Campus Operations will be the responsible department.

## **Campus Tree Advisory Committee**

The tree advisory committee will be compromised of staff, faculty, and students of Waubonsee Community College. In addition a representative from outside the campus will also sit on the committee. The committee will meet no less than twice per academic calendar year. The tree advisory committee is just that, an advisory committee. They will not set policy or procedure.

## **Campus Arboriculture Practices and Procedures**

**Pruning-** All trees will be pruned in a matter as to not alter the natural shape of the tree. All pruning activities will be in accordance with ANSI 300 standards and the companion publication *Best Management Practices-Tree Pruning*.

**Removal-** Trees slated for removal by Facilities Department in concert with an ISA Certified Arborist, will need to be authorized by the administration. No oaks will be removed without administrative authorization. When possible, stumps will be ground and backfilled.

All elms exhibiting Dutch Elm Disease, oaks exhibiting oak wilt disease and all ash exhibiting signs of emerald ash borer, will be removed as soon as possible.

**Planting-** Trees to be planted will come from the campus' approved tree planting list. Planting will follow the xxxx. No trees that appear on the campus' prohibited tree planting list will be planted.

Mulching- All trees will be mulched when necessary. Mulch will not be deeper than 3” and will at no time touch the bark of the tree. Volcano mulching is also prohibited. Mulch will be of natural material.

Storm Damage/Catastrophic Events- In the event of a major storm or catastrophic event, the facilities director in conjunction with the groundskeeper will manage the response. Any hazardous trees will be addressed by a Certified Arborist as soon as possible.

### **Protection and Preservation Policies and Procedures**

A consulting arborist will be utilized from the planning stage to the end of construction when trees are in a proposed construction zone. Tree protection areas will be established around all trees that will be preserved during the construction process. This will be done using wooden slat snow fencing. The fence will be maintained by the general contractor throughout the duration of the construction project. Specific perimeters for protection fencing will be at the discretion of the consulting arborist. Absolutely no materials, persons or vehicles will be allowed in the protection zones without the written consent of the consulting arborist. The consulting arborist, in conjunction with WCC staff, will set reasonable fines for damages to trees caused by negligence by the general contractor. The general contractor will sign an affidavit stating that he or she have read the tree protection plan and will enforce the regulations with all subcontractors and tradesmen.

### **Goals and Targets**

The top goal for WCC is to preserve the heritage oaks on campus. Disease and pest control along with growth regulators and fertilizations along with pruning will be continued and monitored.

The second goal for WCC is to improve the species diversity of the campus through its replanting activities. This will help with disease and pest suppression when a certain species is attacked.

Finally, it is necessary for WCC to update and complete an inventory of all campus trees.

### **Tree Damage Assessment**

All damaged trees on the WCC campus will be assessed by a Certified Arborist. The findings of the arborist will be presented to the director of campus operations. The report will include the tag #, species, location, dbh, and damage assessment. The arborist will also create a remediation plan that may or may not include removal of the tree. If the cause of the damage was negligence, the offending party will be responsible for the cost of the remediation plan if the administration allows.

### **Prohibited Practices**

Under no circumstances will a tree be planted, pruned, removed or treated without the approval of the Waubensee Community College administration.

## **Definitions**

*Tree protection zone*- that area defined by the consulting arborist during construction activity that may not be entered without the written consent of the consulting arborist.

*DBH*- diameter at breast height of a tree commonly measured at 4.5 feet from the ground.

*Heritage oaks*- those large and specimen oaks that were preserved during the initial construction of the campus.

*Volcano mulching*- the adding of too much mulch around the base of a tree creating a major mountain of mulch.

*Consulting Arborist*- an arborist with an advanced knowledge of valuation and protection of trees in a construction area.

*Certified Arborist*- an arborist who is certified by the International Society of Arboriculture. This person has passed a test and is required to complete continuing education units.

*Tree Inventory*- a count of the trees recorded individually with each trees' species, dbh and recommendations and comments. A metal tag with the tree # may be affixed to the tree.

**Communication Strategy**

After the adoption of the Campus Tree Care Plan and Policies by the Advisory Committee and the Waubonsee Community College administration a press release will be created by the college. The press release will be distributed to local newspapers, the student newspapers and also will be posted to the college's website.